

**District office:**

18560 1st Ave. NE
Suite E-600
Shoreline, WA 98155

District phone:

(206) 366-2604

Olympia office:

Rep. Maralyn Chase
P. O. Box 40600
433 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
Olympia, WA
98504-0600

Olympia phone:

(360) 786-7880

Email:

chase.maralyn@leg.
wa.gov

Toll-free Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TTY-TDD

(hearing impaired):

1-800-635-9993

Maralyn's website:

[http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/
members/chase/](http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/chase/)



Working for the people and
communities of the 32nd District

Rep. Maralyn Chase

Session Report to the 32nd District

Dear Neighbors,

The 2006 Legislative session is underway! I'm writing to tell you about a number of issues I'm working on for families and businesses in our communities.

Whether you live in Edmonds, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore or anywhere else in our 32nd District, you have a stake in the Legislature's decisions. So please take a moment to look through this report. You see information inside about:

- Education and the WASL
- How we can improve the climate for small businesses.
- Exciting opportunities to promote energy freedom for Washington.
- Additional personal priorities that reflect what local citizens and businesses tell me is most important to them.

Being a good listener is one of the most important parts of my job as your representative. So please don't hesitate to contact me with your suggestions, concerns and ideas. Serving you is an honor, and hearing from you is a pleasure, so please keep in touch!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Maralyn Chase".

Maralyn

Rep. Maralyn Chase

Energy Assistance to Neighbors in Need

The first new state law of 2006 will help more than 14,000 needy families stay warm this winter despite soaring energy costs. Many senior citizens and families are literally cutting back on groceries to pay energy bills that skyrocketed this fall. They desperately needed help. Best of all, the entire energy-relief package is financed by a utility penalty paid by Qwest—and not from general taxes. I proudly cosponsored this new law.

Helping Schools and Students Succeed

We're fortunate to have some of the best local schools and teachers in the entire state. But even here, many parents and teachers are concerned about what will happen in 2008, when high school students must pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, or WASL, in reading, writing and math to graduate.

The state made the WASL a graduation requirement, and I believe state leaders have a moral obligation to give our schools the tools they need to help students succeed. We made good progress last year by fully funding the people's class-size reduction and teacher-salary initiatives and authorizing multiple retakes of WASL sections where students need improvement. But more is needed.

This year, I'm supporting legislation—and significant state funding—to help local schools tailor additional learning opportunities to students who need extra help. This could include free summer school help, before-and-after-school programs, tutoring, Saturday classes, Internet outreach—or whatever local schools decide (I'm a big believer in local control).

We're also considering the Superintendent of Public Instruction's proposal to create alternative pathways to graduation for students who generally meet high academic standards but don't do well on high-stakes, high-pressure tests. For example, a portfolio of student work, or an index that combines grades and WASL scores, might be used to demonstrate proficiency. I urge parents, teachers—indeed all citizens—to contact me with any ideas you may have for ensuring that Washington's schools and students have the best possible future.

Fairness for Shoreline Schools

The Shoreline community has worked very hard to create outstanding schools. And when you consider measures of excellence in education – such as Shoreline's high test scores, low dropout rates and community support—it is clear this hard work has paid off.

But as I've reported to you previously, Shoreline schools are facing serious budget strains due to the high costs of serving high-needs autistic children living in Fodor Homes. Between 2004 and 2006, the school district will spend more than \$1.3 million above state reimbursements to serve these deserving children, and these extraordinary costs will continue. I firmly agree with the district and parents that state government has a moral and legal duty to reimburse these costs, and I am working with other lawmakers this session to find a long term solution.

Our state should reward great schools like we have in Shoreline, and should not make it harder for teachers and administrators to give students a great education.



Improving state support for our public schools needs to be a top priority.

—(Photo courtesy of Shorecrest High School)

Session Report to the 32nd District

Moving toward Energy Freedom



The infuriating increases in fuel and energy prices following Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana show why Energy Freedom needs to be a priority for Washington. I've authored or cosponsored several steps we can take quickly to make us more energy independent, reduce pollution and help our environment:

- Boost Washington's green energy industry by requiring that when Washington consumers voluntarily donate to green energy through their utility bills their contribution must be invested in Washington.
- Promote biodiesel production and use in Washington. Every gallon of biodiesel we produce in-state is a gallon of fuel we don't have to import.
- Authorize and encourage state purchasing agencies to consider plug-in hybrid vehicles when it is appropriate and cost-effective.
- Expand tax credits for solar energy to include solar water heating, and provide tax credits for businesses that reduce or offset carbon dioxides—and global warming—but only if the reduction or offset takes place here in Washington.
- Ensure we are making the most effective and cost-effective energy choices by creating a Washington State energy efficiency and conservation road map to unify our efforts.



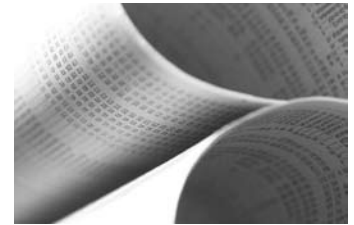
Helping Small Businesses

Look down virtually any main street in North King or South Snohomish County and you'll see that small businesses are a big part of the heart of our communities. Many entrepreneurs are even building thriving businesses in their homes. I'm again working in 2006 to help small business owners with problems they tell me about.



Regulatory Relief for Small Business

— We can save small businesses time and money by requiring state agencies to minimize regulatory burdens on small businesses when making rules. This includes looking for less burdensome alternatives to existing rules. We should also unify state services for businesses in a single office and require any agency regulation that significantly impacts businesses to be signed by the governor before it can take effect.



Health Care Assistance

— It's hard for small businesses to afford rising health care costs. I'm supporting legislation to provide premium assistance to help small businesses provide health insurance to low-income employees.



Property Protection — The U.S. Supreme Court recently said governments can use the power of eminent domain to seize property for the sake of preferred economic development. I've proposed a law to prohibit this abuse of government power in Washington.

Small Business Advocacy Committee — Big businesses are always heard. I've proposed creating a legislative committee dedicated to hearing and addressing the needs of small businesses.



Maralyn speaking out for 32nd District concerns at a public hearing.

Rep. Maralyn Chase

Snapshots of Maralyn's other 2006 Priorities

End Day-use Fees at State Parks —

The people own our parks and support them with their taxes. They should not have to pay day-use fees to enjoy them. These fees were imposed during a budget emergency that lawmakers have already solved.



Stop Unreasonable Insurance Increases —

Our elected Insurance Commissioner has asked for the authority to veto unreasonable health insurance premium increases charged to individuals. He needs this authority to protect consumers.

I'm working to eliminate day-use fees at state parks, which were created during a budget emergency that has been solved.

Health Insurance for Kids — Every child should be able to see a doctor when they need to. Last year, we helped 38,000 more kids to get insurance. This year, we should tear down barriers to making better use of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Campaign Finance Reform — There is growing alarm about special interest money pouring into state Supreme Court races. To protect the American principle of an independent judiciary, we should expand the people's highly successful Campaign Finance Reform initiative to cover Supreme Court races, which were not included in the original initiative.

Affordable Medicines from Canada — I'm again cosponsoring legislation to enable Washington citizens to buy safe and affordable medicines from Canada. Drug manufacturers don't want the competition, but Washington's consumers do.



Protect Puget Sound from Oil Spills — Oil tanker traffic is the #1 threat to Puget Sound, orcas and other Sound wildlife. We need stronger laws to regulate oil tanker traffic in Puget Sound and require safety precautions when oil is transferred from ship to shore.



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Maralyn Chase
PO Box 40600
433 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
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